



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

**JUL 27 2012**

Dear Tribal Leader:

In both February and May of this year, we wrote to inform you about a Presidential initiative to promote greater transparency for oil, gas, and mineral revenue collection – the implementation of the United States Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI). As explained in those letters, EITI offers a voluntary framework for governments and companies to publicly disclose in parallel the revenues paid and received for extraction of oil, gas, and minerals owned by the state. The design of each framework is country-specific, and is developed through a multi-year, consensus based process by a multi-stakeholder group comprised of government, industry, and civil society. We also informed you about the opportunity to participate and provided the following options for your consideration:

- Identify one or more representatives to serve on the multi-stakeholder group when it is established this summer.
- Observe the multi-stakeholder group in its early stages to evaluate whether to join at a later date.
- Decline to participate in the Federal USEITI effort, but reserve the option to participate at a later date.

After considering the input obtained from a series of public outreach efforts over the past months, including several public listening sessions, two public comment periods, 66 stakeholder interviews, and meetings with tribes in Oklahoma and at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Secretary of the Interior has decided to move forward with establishing the Multi-Stakeholder Group in the form of a USEITI Committee under the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*. The Committee will serve as the initial consensus-based decision making body that will provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior on the design and implementation of USEITI. The enclosed Federal Register Notice [Docket No. ONRR-2012-0003] outlines the process and requirements for nominating candidates.

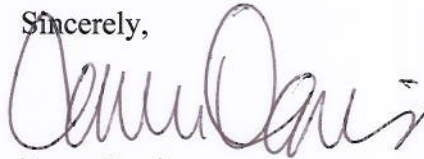
During our tribal outreach efforts on EITI in the past few months, we learned that tribes have a range of views and concerns regarding how they might engage with USEITI. By this follow-up letter, we continue to seek Tribal input on how to ensure Tribal interests are considered as the implementation process evolves. As identified above, options for Tribal participation in jointly deciding, alongside industry, civil society, and the Federal Government, include selecting one or

more Tribal representatives to serve as a member of the initial USEITI Committee currently being formed, or as an observer to keep informed about the type and level of extractive revenue disclosures being considered, and/or to gain insight on how USEITI implementation can be meaningful and beneficial to Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners.

We are committed to honoring our government to government relationship with Tribes as sovereign nations. Even if Tribes or a Tribe do not submit nominations for Tribal representatives to serve on the initial USEITI Committee, the Department still retains the obligation and commitment to engage in ongoing and meaningful Tribal engagement as EITI implementation proceeds.

In our continued effort to inform and engage with Tribes about EITI, we welcome the opportunity to speak or meet with you in person. If you would like to arrange a discussion with Interior officials, please contact Ms. Saman Hussain by email at [saman\\_hussain@ios.doi.gov](mailto:saman_hussain@ios.doi.gov) or by telephone at (202) 254-5508. If you would like to view the USEITI final stakeholder assessment with recommendations on forming the USEITI Committee which includes options for Tribal participation, it is available on the USEITI website at <http://www.doi.gov/eiti/upload/USEITI7-Final-Assessment.pdf>. Also, additional details about USEITI can be found at [www.doi.gov/eiti](http://www.doi.gov/eiti).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Laura Davis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Davis  
Chief of Staff

Enclosure